

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of all the claims now in the application (i.e., claims 1-8, 11-19, 24-30) is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, the Examiner rejected claims 11, 13, 28 and 30 for reciting limitations having no antecedent basis. Applicants have amended these claims to place them in proper form.

The Examiner then rejected claims 1, 11-13, 16-19 and 28 as being unpatentable over a combination of Scharbach et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,987,499 in view of Ferree U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/24469. The Examiner considered that Ferree teaches in FIGS. 8A and 8B that the sleeves for the femoral prosthesis can be formed as two parts with screws to tighten the two pieces together (although in use the two parts expand). The Examiner considered that troughs are formed in the inner surfaces of the sleeve components to match the surface of the prosthesis. Apparently the Examiner is referring to the surfaces which engage the outer anterior and posterior or medial and lateral sides of the stem. These troughs extend in a proximal-distal direction.

Applicants have revised the independent claims 1, 24 and 28 to include the limitations that the trough extends medially and is open proximally to receive the distal surface of the neck. The neck is the part of the implant which has a prosthetic head as now claimed. Clearly this structure is not shown in any of the prior art cited by the Examiner. The medial-lateral trough clearly is shown in FIG. 1 of the present application and designated numeral 13. Neither Ferree nor Scharbach et al. has an open proximally facing arcuate surface for engaging the neck of the implant as now claimed. Ferree has a proximally-distally running arcuate surface engaging the

anterior and posterior sides of the stem and Scharbach et al. has a ring around the neck which does not engage the implant neck. No combinations of the references cited alone or in combination disclose the structure now claimed.

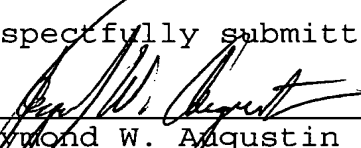
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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